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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, SEPTEMBER 7, 2000

APPLICATION OF

ESSENTIAL.COM, INC.

CASE NO. PUE000386

For a license to conduct  
business as a competitive  
service provider in electric  
and natural gas retail access  
pilot programs

ORDER FOR NOTICE AND COMMENT

On July 14, 2000, essential.com, inc. ("essential.com" or "Applicant"), filed an application for licensure to conduct business as a competitive service provider. The application was completed with an amendment to the application filed August 24, 2000. The Applicant proposes to provide natural gas in the retail access pilot programs of Washington Gas Light Company and Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., and electricity in the retail access pilot programs of Virginia Electric and Power Company (Virginia Power) and Appalachian Power Company d/b/a American Electric Power (AEP-VA). By further amendment to its application on August 31, 2000, essential.com stated that it also contemplates providing service in the pilot program of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative.

NOW UPON CONSIDERATION of the captioned application, the Commission is of the opinion that essential.com's application

should be docketed; that the Applicant should give appropriate notice of its application; and that the Commission Staff should conduct an investigation into the reasonableness of the application and present its findings in a Staff report.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) This case is docketed and assigned Case No. PUE000386.

(2) A copy of essential.com's application and supporting documents shall be made available for public inspection in the Commission's Document Control Center located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23218, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or can be ordered from essential.com's counsel, Eric J. Krathwohl, Esquire, Rich, May, Bilodeau & Flaherty, P.C., 176 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2223.

(3) Any interested person may request a copy of the application, accompanying materials, and this Order by directing a request for the same in writing to essential.com's counsel at the address set forth above. The Applicant shall, within three (3) days of receipt of the request, serve the requested documents upon the person making such request.

(4) On or before September 15, 2000, essential.com shall complete publication of the following notice to be published on one (1) occasion as classified advertising in newspapers of general circulation within the geographical areas approved by

the Commission for each pilot program in which the Applicant seeks to participate:

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY  
ESSENTIAL.COM, INC., TO CONDUCT BUSINESS AS  
A COMPETITIVE SERVICE PROVIDER IN ELECTRIC  
AND NATURAL GAS RETAIL ACCESS PILOT PROGRAMS  
CASE NO. PUE000386

On July 14, 2000, essential.com, inc. ("essential.com" or "Applicant"), filed an application with the State Corporation Commission for a license to conduct business as a competitive service provider in electric and natural gas retail access pilot programs. The Applicant amended its application on August 24, 2000, and August 31, 2000. Essential.com states that it presently intends to provide electricity in the retail access pilot programs of Virginia Electric and Power Company (Virginia Power), Appalachian Power Company d/b/a American Electric Power (AEP-VA), and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative; and natural gas in the retail access pilot programs of Washington Gas Light Company and Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc.

Copies of essential.com's application are available for public inspection between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Commission's Document Control Center located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23218, or can be ordered from Applicant's counsel, Eric J. Krathwohl, Esquire, Rich, May, Bilodeau & Flaherty, P.C., 176 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2223.

Any person desiring to comment in writing on essential.com's application may do so by directing an original and five (5) copies of such comments on or before September 26, 2000, to Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document

Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Comments must refer to Case No. PUE000386. A copy of such comments simultaneously shall be sent to Applicant's counsel, Eric J. Krathwohl, Esquire, at the address set forth above.

ESSENTIAL.COM, INC.

(5) Any person desiring to comment in writing on essential.com's application may do so by directing an original and five (5) copies of such comments on or before September 26, 2000, to the Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Comments must refer to Case No. PUE000386. A copy of any such comments also must simultaneously be served by first-class mail, or hand-delivered, to counsel for Applicant, Eric J. Krathwohl, Esquire, Rich, May, Bilodeau & Flaherty, P.C., 176 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2223.

(6) The Commission Staff shall analyze the reasonableness of WGES's application and shall present its findings in a Staff report to be filed on or before September 29, 2000.

(7) On or before October 5, 2000, the Applicant shall file with the Clerk of the Commission an original and fifteen (15) copies of any response it may have to the Staff report and any comments that have been filed, and shall serve a copy of its response on counsel for the Commission Staff and any person(s)

submitting comments. Service shall be by such method that ensures that the response is received by October 5, 2000.

(8) Due to the time-sensitive nature of this proceeding, the Applicant shall respond to written interrogatories or data requests within three (3) business days after the receipt of the same. Interrogatories and data requests, as well as the responses thereto, shall be transmitted via facsimile as well as by first-class mail. Except as modified herein, discovery shall be in accordance with Part VI of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-10-450 to -510.

(9) On or before September 27, 2000, the Applicant shall file with the Clerk of the Commission proof of the notice required in Ordering paragraph (4).

(1) This matter is continued generally.